

ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 31

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Designates second full week in November of each year as “School Psychology Awareness Week.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating the second full week in
2 November of each year as “School Psychology Awareness
3 Week.”
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5 **WHEREAS**, Mental health is a key component in the academic,
6 emotional, and social success of children and youth across New
7 Jersey; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Students can suffer from a range of developmental or
9 interpersonal problems that negatively impact their ability to
10 perform in school and lead to reduced opportunities later in life; and
11 **WHEREAS**, Many children and youth are exposed to adverse social
12 conditions that threaten healthy development in their schools and
13 communities such as exposure to violence, teenage pregnancy, and
14 substance abuse; and
15 **WHEREAS**, Schools can more effectively ensure that all students are
16 able to learn by providing an integrated, comprehensive approach to
17 students’ growth and development; and
18 **WHEREAS**, School psychology has evolved as a specialty area of
19 professional psychology with core knowledge in children, youth,
20 families, and the educational process; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Sound psychological principles are integral to instruction
22 and learning, school safety, social and emotional development,
23 early intervention efforts, and support of culturally diverse student
24 populations; and
25 **WHEREAS**, School psychologists are uniquely qualified members of
26 school staff who apply expertise in mental health, learning, and
27 behavior to help children and youth succeed academically,
28 behaviorally, and emotionally; and
29 **WHEREAS**, School psychologists partner with families, teachers, and
30 school administrators to create safe, healthy, and supportive
31 learning environments that strengthen connections between home,
32 school, and the community; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Schools across New Jersey can give their students the best
34 chance to succeed by providing a comprehensive approach to
35 student support that includes the student’s mental health; and
36 **WHEREAS**, It is important to recognize and appreciate the services that
37 school psychologists across the State provide to improve the future
38 of students; now, therefore,
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40 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
41 *State of New Jersey:*
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43 1. The second full week in November of each year shall be
44 designated as “School Psychology Awareness Week.”
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46 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
47 proclamation recognizing “School Psychology Awareness Week”

1 and call upon public officials, private organizations and all citizens
2 of the State to observe this day each year with appropriate events
3 and activities.

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5 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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10 This resolution designates the second full week in November of
11 each year as “School Psychology Awareness Week.”

12 The State of New Jersey has long been recognized as a national
13 leader in education for the quality of its educational system. An
14 important component of a comprehensive education is attention to
15 mental health. Students today face many challenges to their mental,
16 emotional, and social well-being that can impact their academic
17 performance. Ensuring students have access to mental health
18 resources is critical for New Jersey and its future.

19 School psychologists have an important role in the education
20 system by providing the mental health support that students need to
21 succeed. They have rigorous professional standards with a
22 commitment to the health of students and their families. Children
23 cannot learn if they do not feel physically and psychologically safe,
24 and school psychologists are in a unique position to provide support
25 to students. It is important to recognize and promote the vital work
26 being done for New Jersey students by school psychologists. Their
27 continued efforts will help to ensure a stronger future for the
28 education of children and youths across the State.